

# REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

## 2015 Annual Report

Celebrating 10 Years of History & Culture



### REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

of Maryland African American History & Culture  
830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Md 21202  
[LewisMuseum.org](http://LewisMuseum.org)



“Keep going, no matter what.”  
Reginald F. Lewis, businessman,  
philanthropist, Marylander, 1942 – 1993

**Opened on June 25, 2005:**

**Our Mission**

To be the premier experience and best resource about the lives of African American Marylanders. The Museum seeks to realize its mission by collecting, preserving, interpreting, documenting, and exhibiting the rich contributions of African American Marylanders from the state's earliest history to the present and the future.



Photo: Likisha Griffin

On June 25, 2005, the first official visitors to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture streamed through the front doors of the new building, a striking monument to the contributions made by African American Marylanders over hundreds of years.

Beyond this being an institution that aims to inspire, this is a place where new stories are made: by young people who gain a deeper understanding of their heritage; by families who use genealogy to embrace their connections; by tourists, eager to see a vivid set of stories that fill out their own journeys with greater complexity; and by artists, students, community members and by donors wishing to make their contributions to the next.

This was an especially exuberant and energizing year at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, with new exhibitions, events and partnerships. Much appreciation is due to our staff, volunteers, and of course, you our supporters who enable us to grow and share it with all throughout Maryland.

This 10th anniversary year stimulated much reflection on where the museum is headed, and we look forward to increasing our capacity to do more. We want to increase sustainability, so that more resources are available for programming, and we are committed to maintaining excellence in all things we do. Above all, we will find new ways to boost the museum's relevance and public engagement for all citizens of Maryland.

Happy Anniversary to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum! Let us all celebrate.

Dr. A. Skipp Sanders, Ed.D. Executive Director	Dr. Leslie King Hammond, Ph.D. Chair, Board of Directors
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# EDUCATION

In 2015, the museum engaged children, families and adults with over 60 programs on a range of topics that included patriotism, racial identity, the hip hop culture, community activism, Civil Rights, the Freedom Riders, and the world of dance.

During a community forum on MLK Day, distinguished local community leaders discussed next steps in a panel entitled, *Healing Beyond Ferguson*. The panelists were then Baltimore City Police Commissioner Anthony Batts, WEAA radio host Farajii Muhammad, former Chief Judge Robert Bell, activist Chris Roberts, Baltimore City Councilman Nick Mosby, and H. Lovell Smith, associate professor of sociology at Loyola University.

The museum's commitment to audience engagement expanded with a new interactive installation entitled *Face It*. Visitors were invited to read and respond to a prompt

by writing or drawing their response on a piece of paper in the shape of a face and posting it on the wall. The installation yielded over 450 responses from the public, including Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the State's Attorney for Baltimore, Marilyn Mosby.

As part of the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner flag and the national anthem, beat box artist Shodekeh brought together musicians from the classical, pop, and jazz worlds for a new interpretation of the anthem using vocal percussion, hip hop, and classical music.

On the opening weekend of the *Dance Theatre of Harlem* exhibition, its Ballet Master Keith Saunders gave an insider's perspective during his gallery walk for members.



The museum hosted a community conversation on MLK Day entitled "Healing beyond Ferguson."

Photo: Likisha Griffin



## Bringing It All Together

Events such as the Annual African American Children's Book Fair and the Family Reunion Expo have attracted audiences and artists to engage in the joy of African American art, culture, history, and life. We have also featured some of the nation's most celebrated performers, including Alicia Keys, May-sa, and Ashford & Simpson.

# COLLECTIONS

Devin Allen, only the third amateur photographer to have his work on the cover of *TIME* Magazine, donated two of the original proofs from the spread in the magazine. Other objects that were donated are "A Walk into Glory," a painting by Tina Martin Wyatt, honoring Harriet Tubman and a sculpture entitled, "Shack," by Beverly Buchanan, who was known to explore Southern architecture through her art. Maryland Public Television donated over 50 vinyl albums containing soundtracks from musicals and Broadway productions. Still other significant donations are pending.



Photographer Devin Allen donates a printer's proof of a *TIME* issue that features a spread of his work.

Photo: Likisha Griffin



Photo: RaRah Photography

## A Decade of Repository for Maryland's History

The Lewis Museum is distinguished by its existing collections, and its ability to accept more donations. The museum's permanent collection is a gateway to the history and living culture of Maryland African Americans. The collection includes art, artifacts, textiles, material culture, photographs, rare books and other items. Some of our largest collections focus on the African American military experience (The Scipio Collection), early American jazz recordings (The Louis J. and Shirley Hecht collection), and Maryland community history.



# EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions and collections are the backbone for inspiring and engaging visitors in the historical and cultural journeys of Maryland African American communities, the Collections and Exhibitions Department continues to bring forth new exhibits and additions to the museum's collections. This year, Collections & Exhibitions marked an extraordinary year with the award-winning exhibition *For Whom It Stands: The Flag and The American People*, and a donor drive that resulted in the museum receiving over 100 objects.

The exhibition *For Whom It Stands* was developed in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner flag and national anthem. Curated by Dr. Michelle Joan Wilkinson, the show was named a "Top Ten Must See" by USA Today and won the 2014 First

Place Award of Excellence by the Association of Art Museum Curators. A companion exhibition, *For Whom It Stands Too*, was on view at The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and was curated by Asantewa Boakyewa.

In April, the exhibition *Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts* traveled to the Lewis Museum. This majestic exhibition of dazzling costumes, set pieces, and video excerpts celebrated an iconic company and its corps who defied prejudice, and gravity itself, in pursuit of their talent. The exhibition is close to many Maryland families. Several of the current company of dancers hail from Maryland and its Ballet Master is Baltimore native Keith Saunders.



*For Whom It Stands* was named "Best Historical Exhibition, 2014" by Baltimore City Paper.



Executive Director Skipp Sanders cuts cake on the museum's 10th birthday with young visitors.

## Happy 10th Anniversary

To commemorate the museum's tenth anniversary on June 25, the museum programmed a week of special events, beginning with a concert by Baltimore native and Grammy-nominated artist Maysa to a sold-out crowd. On the anniversary day itself, visitors enjoyed a program recognizing those who contributed to the development of the curriculum created by the museum in partnership with the State Department of Education, entitled *An African American Journey: A Resource for Learning the History of African Americans in Maryland and the U.S.* There was also an open house with free admission and of course, birthday cake.

**MATERIAL GIRLS**

Contemporary Black Women Artists

February 12  
to  
October 16, 2011



### 10 Years of Excellence in Exhibitions

Since Opening Day on June 25, 2005, over 20 original exhibitions have premiered at the Museum, and another 30 have guested. Notable recent exhibitions include *The Kinsey Collection*, which presented astounding artifacts such as a signed copy of Brown vs. Board of Education decision and an early copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. *Material Girls* was a critically-acclaimed show, which *The Washington Post* called "a robust conversation between viewer and artist."



EDUCATING OUR FAMILIES

To educate children for tomorrow, the museum presented a wide variety of family programming, including interactive theater, dance workshops, craft activities, and storytelling focused on sharing African American history and culture with all.

During the city-wide celebration Free Fall Baltimore the museum offered “Embracing Many Shades,” a story hour with a short film and art activity highlighting the beauty of various skin tones.

For the 150th anniversary of Maryland Emancipation, the teaching artist Culture Kingdom Kids presented an original play, *Uncle Nace’s Day*, to honor the state’s oldest Eman-

cipation Day parade and Nace Hopkins, an Eastern Shore native who founded the parade.

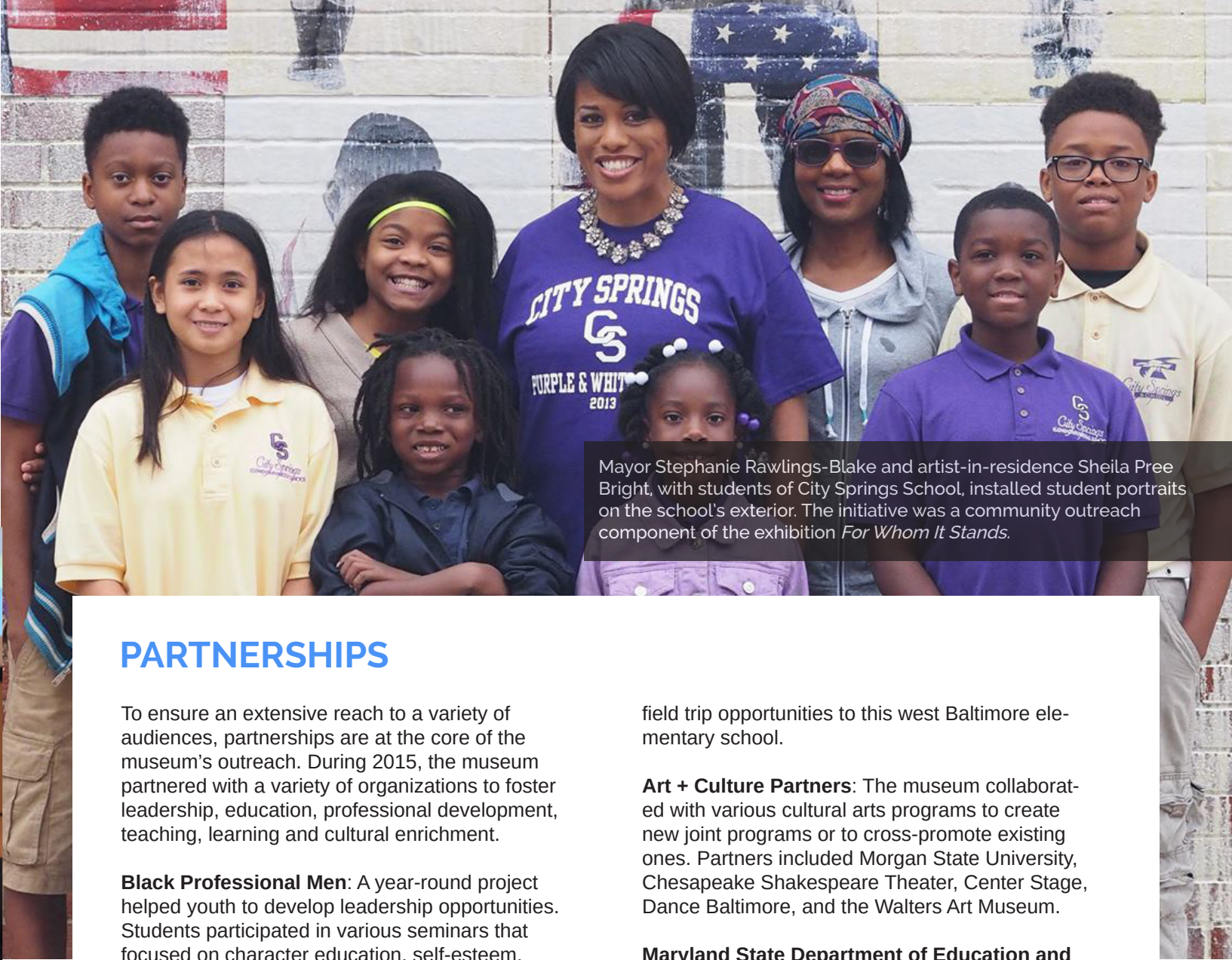
In January, hundreds of children and families celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King at the museum’s MLK Children’s Birthday Party. The celebration included story-telling, films on Dr. King, crafts, and birthday cake.

Visitors enjoyed a year-long variety of mini dance workshops in conjunction with the exhibition, *Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts*. In addition, children and families studied the talents of blues jazz artist Billie Holiday through music, movement and story.



3rd Annual African American Children’s Book Fair

African American authors and illustrators of children’s books, and their enthusiastic audiences, were featured during our 3rd Annual African American Children’s Book Fair in May 2015. Sponsored by BGE and MECU, the event offered activities including illustration workshops, a live drawing competition, and readings by noted writers, including Poet Eloise Greenfield. The museum also collaborated with Baltimore City Schools to bring illustrator London Ladd into classrooms at Curtis Bay Elementary School for illustration workshops.



Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and artist-in-residence Sheila Pree Bright, with students of City Springs School, installed student portraits on the school’s exterior. The initiative was a community outreach component of the exhibition *For Whom It Stands*.

PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure an extensive reach to a variety of audiences, partnerships are at the core of the museum’s outreach. During 2015, the museum partnered with a variety of organizations to foster leadership, education, professional development, teaching, learning and cultural enrichment.

**Black Professional Men:** A year-round project helped youth to develop leadership opportunities. Students participated in various seminars that focused on character education, self-esteem, mentoring, and citizenship.

**Teach for America:** The partnership helped to promote culturally responsive classroom teaching management and professional development. It also brought awareness to the curriculum developed by the museum and the Maryland State Department of Education, *An African American Journey*.

**Matthew Henson Elementary School:** After the Baltimore protests in spring 2015, the museum provided education outreach programming and

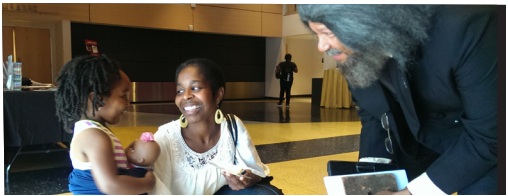
field trip opportunities to this west Baltimore elementary school.

**Art + Culture Partners:** The museum collaborated with various cultural arts programs to create new joint programs or to cross-promote existing ones. Partners included Morgan State University, Chesapeake Shakespeare Theater, Center Stage, Dance Baltimore, and the Walters Art Museum.

**Maryland State Department of Education and State Education Association:** The organizations were co-sponsors of the 7th Annual High School Juried Art Show. (See next page.)

**Super Kids Camp:** The museum’s permanent collection served as a site for the enrichment camp for City School students in grades 1-3.

**City Springs Elementary/Middle School:** Select students who were part of the outreach component of the *For Whom It Stands* exhibit accompanied museum leadership to address the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate committees.



Forging Partnerships

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum began as an idea of noted Delegate Howard “Pete” Rawlings. It garnered the support of Governor Donald Schaefer, civic leader George L. Russell, State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick and philanthropist Peter G. Angelos. With the visionary spirit of Reginald F. Lewis and the financial investment of The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, the museum was established as a dominant anchor for the history and culture of African American Marylanders.





The museum exhibits a juried show of Maryland high school student work every year.

## SUPPORTING MARYLAND'S SCHOOLS

Education is the foundation of the museum. This year, nearly 5,000 youth were served through the museum's educational tours and programs. Some received free museum admission and bus transportation through our Children's Access Program (CAP). The museum delivers themed tours and educational programs that support state curriculum standards and complement lessons from a curriculum developed by the museum and the Maryland State Department of Education entitled *An African American Journey: A Resource for Learning the History of African Americans in Maryland and the United States*.

The museum celebrated the growth of the curriculum. More than 105 lessons were recognized at our 10th Anniversary program that honored the educators connected to the project, and at no cost are now available to educators.

In addition, the museum promoted use of the curriculum at educational fairs, professional development events, teacher's colleges, Black History Expos, and various school districts, and education organizations.

The museum provided professional development to educators on teaching African American history in the classroom. Workshops included, The Harlem Renaissance (in collaboration with UMBC and the 9th Annual Arts Integration Conference), Civil Rights: Using Historical Inquiry and a webinar course, The Civil Rights Movement in Maryland.

Each year, high school and college students are able to gain museum experience through the Education Department's Internship Program. Students from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and the Park School worked on

projects to increase audience engagement, archived the *Face It* installation, developed questions for focus groups, facilitated group tours, and supported the African American Children's Book Fair.

The 4th grade class from City Neighbors School in Baltimore City dramatized narratives on enslaved and free blacks entitled *Journeys In Freedom*, with the help from Chesapeake Shakespeare Theater.

In collaboration with the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, the museum provided professional experience for the Urban Arts Leadership Fellowship Program Fellow Megan Lewis.

To celebrate the bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner flag and national anthem, quilt historian Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither worked with museum visitors to create quilt squares depicting the meaning of America to them. Squares were then sewn together to complete the bicentennial quilt, now on display with our permanent collections.

The 7th Annual High School Juried Art Show exhibited the talent of Maryland's youth. The theme, The Flag and the American People: What Does It Mean to Me? was inspired by the museum's special exhibition, *For Whom It Stands*. The 28 finalists featured in this exhibition were selected from over 68 entries. For the first time, there was a first place tie between two seniors, Jacob Cool of Catocin High School, Frederick County, and Kayla Hall of Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, Baltimore County.

## RESOURCE CENTER

One of the major milestones of last year's public programming from the Resource Center included the state's recognition of the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery in Maryland. At the museum's Emancipation Day celebration, photography historian Deborah Willis lectured from her book "Envisioning Emancipation", which drew one of our largest audiences for this annual event. The museum first initiated the Maryland Emancipation Day lecture in 2006, and it has evolved to attract noted historians and reach wide audiences.

The heart and soul of the Resource Center continues to be historical research, primary reference collections, and genealogy. Last year's historical outreach included *This Day in History* radio segments on WEAA, providing a month of historical narratives for a prominent LED billboard next to Baltimore's Penn Station, and the coordination of lectures through our Speaker's Bureau.

Historical research assistance was provided to a wide range of callers and visitors, including regional writers, national researchers, and local high school and college students. Subject highlights of last year's historical queries included early 20th century black physicians of Baltimore;

civil rights demonstrations on Route 40; the Edgewater Giants; celebrations of Negro History Week; and the tragic death of the Eastern Shore educator Stephen Handy Long.

During the planning of the landmark exhibit *For Whom It Stands*, the Resource Center assisted with artifact acquisition. The exhibit also afforded the opportunity to coordinate programs on the War of 1812, the Liberian Flag, and the Caribbean ancestry of enslaved people of the Chesapeake region.

Over 100 people walked away with records on their families, including two local residents whose family history records dated back to 1860 and 1840, respectively. Last year also marked our ongoing spring program with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society.



Lisa Crawley, left, in a radio interview speaking about Maryland history and opportunities to conduct family genealogy research at the museum's Resource Center.





Children met authors at the 3rd Annual Children's Book Fair.

Photo: Lukisha Griffin

## INVESTING IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Supporters inspire all corners of the museum and provide the momentum for the decades to come. There are a number of ways we invite you to donate your resources, all of which can result in a tax-deductible donation:

### Donor Circles

The Lewis Museum offers several donor circles with varied levels of giving and networking activities for members and corporate donors. Please consult the Development staff for a Donor Circle suitable to you.

### Investments

The Lewis Museum has the capacity to accept gifts of securities, including publicly traded stocks, bonds, and other debt instruments, mutual funds, or listed options. These fund transfers can be held in an account at a brokerage firm, in physical certificate form, as well as those purchased directly from the issuer.

### Workplace Campaign

In FY 2016, you may designate the Lewis Museum to receive a payroll deduction through the Chesapeake Bay Combined Federal Campaign.

### Bequests

Planned giving is an option as a charitable gift with longevity and forethought. Donors may name the museum as a beneficiary in their estate, or designate a bequest.

### Tribute Gift

A tribute gift can be made for a variety of occasions, such as a birthday, wedding, graduation, or in memory of a loved one.

### Volunteer

Volunteers have the unique opportunity to enlighten and inspire the public through the stories and accomplishments of Maryland African Americans. They support the administrative offices, the resource center, and special events. They also serve as program assistants and docents. Those ages 14-18 can participate in the Travelers Youth Volunteer Program. The museum holds quarterly information sessions for potential volunteers to learn more about the museum and options from staff from various departments. Benefits of volunteering include educational lectures and fieldtrip offerings, discounts and access to special programs, the museum shop, cafe, and volunteer-only events.

Board & Staff Lists

Donors



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Special Events  
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Director of Special Events

Malcolm Grimes  
Special Events Assistant





# DOCENTS & VOLUNTEERS

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum provides guided gallery tours and an enhanced museum experience to a wide range of groups from pre-school classes to retirement communities. In 2014-2015, our dedicated group of volunteers and docents worked over 1,700 hours in order to assist with the museum’s mission of education and preservation. Our docents assisted with guiding and / or orientating 5,871 people on tours through our galleries. Along with interpreting the museum’s permanent collections, docents and volunteers also trained on the museum’s temporary exhibitions including: *For Whom It Stands* and *Dance Theater Of Harlem: 40 Years of First*. Volunteers participated in every aspect of the museum including work in the following departments: Collections, Education, Membership, Special Events, Visitor Services and the Resource Center.

### Docents

Nancy Barrick  
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Yvonne Holton  
Sherry Lee  
Cassandra Moore  
Mary Parker  
Ella Pope  
Elizabeth Ramsey  
Sandra Snead  
Irma Thompson  
Rae Whelchel  
Arlene Wilder

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Dave Greenberg  
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Jacqueline Harris  
James Henry  
Shocka Holmes  
Lauran Howard  
Martina Howard  
Suzanne Jewell  
Pandora Johnson  
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Destiny Lyday  
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JoAnn McKinney  
Christopher Providence  
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Statements of Financial Position as of  
June 30, 2015 and 2014

ASSETS	2015	2014
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$380,046	\$742,401
Accounts receivable	4,104	-
Other receivables	84,402	85,844
Gift Shop inventory	10,093	11,568
Prepaid expenses	15,475	15,210
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>494,120</b>	<b>855,023</b>
<b>Property and Equipment, net</b>	<b>1,194,535</b>	<b>1,457,877</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Investments	7,830,712	6,618,027
Restricted cash	1,051,190	2,292,364
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>8,881,902</b>	<b>8,910,391</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$10,570,577</b>	<b>\$11,223,291</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$200,885	\$154,462
Accrued payroll expenses	144,440	130,006
Accrued expenses	33,000	33,000
Line of credit	601,450	749,313
Deferred revenue	10,000	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>989,775</b>	<b>1,066,781</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	(1,089,417)	(598,123)
Temporarily restricted net assets	2,021,339	2,105,773
Permanently restricted net assets	8,648,860	8,648,860
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>9,580,782</b>	<b>10,156,510</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$10,570,557</b>	<b>\$11,223,291</b>



# Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenue and Support</b>				
Grants	\$2,283,321	\$46,875	-	\$2,330,196
Contributions	74,921	92,800	-	167,721
Admissions	99,449	-	-	99,449
Membership dues	46,047	-	-	46,047
Investment income	1,316	142,668	-	143,984
Realized gain on endowments	-	1,734	-	1,734
Unrealized gains on endowments	-	123,613	-	123,613
Other income	191,936	-	-	191,036
Net assets released from restrictions	492,124	(492,124)	-	-
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>3,189,114</b>	<b>(84,434)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,104,680</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Collections & Exhibitions	592,921	-	-	592,921
Education & Public Programs	683,837	-	-	683,837
External Affairs	521,128	-	-	521,128
Management, Building, & Security	1,882,522	-	-	1,882,522
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>3,680,408</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,680,408</b>
<b>(Decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>(491,294)</b>	<b>(84,434)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(575,728)</b>
<b>Net assets/(deflict) Beginning of year</b>	<b>(598,123)</b>	<b>2,105,773</b>	<b>\$8,648,860</b>	<b>10,156,510</b>
<b>Net Assets/(deficit) End of Year</b>	<b>(\$1,089,417)</b>	<b>\$2,021,339</b>	<b>\$8,648,860</b>	<b>\$9,580,782</b>

To obtain a copy of the MAMMC audited financial statements, please send a request to [semeka.lyles@lewismuseum.org](mailto:semeka.lyles@lewismuseum.org) or call (441) 263-1800.



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